(b) whether there is any priority for the location of public call offices in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There is no proposal to provide a post office in every village. Only villages which fulfil the prescribed norms are considered for opening of new post offices in accordance with the target provided in each Annual Plan.

However, it is planned to provide a telephone in every village by the year 2000 A.D.

(b) As per the present policy the Department of Tele-communications plans to provide at least one long distance public telephone on fully subsidised basis in each hexagon of 5 kms size each. For this purpose the country has been divided into such hexagons. There are 50280 hexagons in the country and as on 31-3-1988, 28,447 hexagons have been provided with Telecom. facility.

Postal and Telephone Facilities at Agricultural Marketing Yards

3716. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any priority for providing postal and telephone facilities at all agricultural marketing yards, irrespective of profit or loss in view of the interest of vast public gathering at those places throughout the year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for closing the existing post office at Guntur agricultural market yard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) All important institutions including agricultural marketing yards are given priority for opening of post offices under the postal plan. For such post offices a loss limit of Rs. 2,400 per annum is also provided (Rs. 4,800 in the case of hilly, backward and tribal areas). No such priority, however, exists in providing telephone facility.

(b) The post office at Agricultural Market Yard Guntur was discontinued in 1985-86 on account of insufficient work and incurring of loss in excess of the permissible limit.

तार अधिनियम का संशोधन करने का प्रस्ताव

3717. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार तार अधिनियम का संशोधन करने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) संशोधन प्रक्रिया के कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) से (ग) भारतीय तार अधिनियम, 1885 के उपबंधों की पुनरीक्षा की जा रही है। तथापि प्रस्तावों पर अभी तक अंतिम निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

Increase in the rent of telephones

3718. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased the monthly rent of telephone connections; if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the increase in rental of telephone connections meant for domestic/personal use as well as for commercial purposes has been made at par; if so, what is the justification for this parity; and